

Actions launched by UMIC in the very short term to facilitate the potential collaboration with the Harvard Medical School

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1. Health Content for the Public

1.1 Leadership and professional development: UMIC must lead the process as a matter of urgency and put together the appropriate interdisciplinary team (professional body) to develop the adequate multi-user information system where teams from the several institutions associated to the project could upload information on public management of health issues.

1.2 Consortia development: UMIC should also lead the formation of a consortium bringing together a team of researchers/faculty/students from the Universities involved in the project that would use and test the tools mentioned below and that would start uploading, or linking, information already available on the current websites of their research centers. This would allow for inventorying Portuguese-based contents that are ready-to-use as a strong baseline for the new information system, prior to using information from Harvard sources.

1.3 Search for designing the future system: UMIC should establish diversified contacts worldwide and examine existing systems for medical content delivery. Collaboration with people at Harvard Publications is welcome to be initiated in order to identify existing procedures in place. It is likely that translated versions of Harvard content will be used in the Portuguese system, and that Portuguese sources will send Harvard researchers new materials for discussion, namely on local health risks that are less developed in the Harvard system. This would allow Harvard researchers to work closely with Portuguese researchers in putting together new contents on managing health risks into the Internet.

1.4 System architecture and interfaces: This effort entails defining carefully the architecture of the information system and designing the web-based interfaces that will allow people of various kinds (assistants, nurses, doctors, researchers, journalists, people at large and others) to browse such information in a structured and highly legible way (consider developing user-centric and situation-centric models).

1.5 Preliminary testing and prototyping: UMIC should allow the testing of the system by developing several preliminary prototypes of user-friendly editing tools for text, image, video and audio, as a way to introduce novel and attractive multimedia interactive features into the new platform.